

Message Text

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COMMERCE:RRODRIGUEZ (DRAFT)

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TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UR

SUBJECT: INVENTORY OF URUGUAY TRADE PROBLEMS

1. ONE OF THE KEY AREAS OF LATIN AMERICAN CONCERN HAS BEEN THAT OF US-LATIN AMERICAN TRADE ISSUES. THIS WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE MEXICO CITY AND WASHINGTON FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETINGS AND BY AMBASSADOR EBERLE'S TRADE CONSULTATION TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA. AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECRETARY'S INITIATIVES IN THE TRADE FIELD, THE DEPARTMENT IS IDENTIFYING THE SIGNIFICANT COUNTRY-SPECIFIC TRADE PROBLEMS OF THE REGION.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE DEPARTMENT HAS PREPARED A PRE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIMINARY INVENTORY OF SIGNIFICANT TRADE ISSUES AFFECTING

URUGUAY (SEE PARA 3). THE ISSUES HAVE BEEN GROUPED UNDER FOUR GENERAL HEADINGS WHICH INCLUDE PROBLEMS THAT URUGUAY HAS WITH THE US AS WELL AS PROBLEMS WE HAVE WITH THEM. THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO REVIEW THE LISTING AND SUBMIT ANY ADDITIONS OR COMMENTS BY AUGUST 9.

3.A. PRINCIPAL URUGUAYAN TRADE PROBLEMS WITH THE US:

1. MEAT: URUGUAY WOULD LIKE INCREASED ACCESS TO THE US MARKET FOR MEAT; BECAUSE IT IS CLASSIFIED AS A FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE COUNTRY, URUGUAY CAN SHIP ONLY COOKED AND DRY-CURED BEEF TO THE US.

2. WOOL TOPS: URUGUAY HAS PERSISTENTLY COMPLAINED THAT US TARIFFS ON THIS PRODUCT ARE EXCESSIVELY HIGH AND SHOULD BE LOWERED.

B. PRINCIPAL US TRADE PROBLEMS WITH URUGUAY: NONE IDENTIFIED.

C. PRINCIPAL URUGUAYAN TRADE PROBLEMS WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES: NONE IDENTIFIED.

D. PRINCIPAL URUGUAYAN TRADE PROBLEMS WITH NON-HEMISPHERIC COUNTRIES:

1. MEAT: URUGUAY HOPES TO INCREASE ITS ACCESS TO THE EUROPEAN MARKET FOR MEAT.

2. PETROLEUM: URUGUAY IS 100 PERCENT DEPENDENT ON IMPORTS FOR ITS PETROLEUM AND IS CONCERNED THAT BECAUSE OF THE SMALL QUANTITIES INVOLVED, IT TENDS TO BE LEFT OUT OF SUPPLY ALLOCATIONS IN TIMES OF SHORTAGE. THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE COST OF PETROLEUM IMPORTS PRESENTS A MASSIVE PROBLEM FOR THE URUGUAYAN ECONOMY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. KISSINGER

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